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EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

5 November 2020

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

[Zoom Meeting](#)

Minutes

Present: Paul Barr, Chair, Provost's Office
Mateja Savoie Roskos, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
Nicholas Morrison, Caine College of the Arts and Curriculum Subcommittee Chair
Kat Oertle, Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services
Matt Sanders, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Dan Coster, College of Science
Lee Rickords, General Education Subcommittee Chair
Shana Geffeney, Statewide Campuses
Robert Heaton, University Libraries
Richard Cutler, Graduate Council
Alex Braeger, Graduate Studies Senator
Fran Hopkin, Registrar's Office
Michele Hillard, Secretary
Jason Marshall, USU Eastern
Renee Galliher, Academic Standards Chair
Sterling Bone, Jon M. Huntsman School of Business
Robyn Peterson, Catalog Editor

Absent: Timothy Taylor, College of Engineering
Chenese Boyle, Academic and Instructional Services
Lucas Stevens, USUSA Executive Vice President
Mike Conover, S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources
Harrison Kleiner, GE Assessment
Sami Ahmed, President USUSA

Guests: N/A

I. **Approval of [1 October 2020 Minutes](#)**
Minutes approved as distributed.

II. **Subcommittee Reports**

a. **Curriculum Subcommittee** (Nicholas Morrison)
*Motion to approve the Curriculum Subcommittee Report made by Dan Coster.
Seconded by Richard Cutler. Report approved.*

Course Approvals – 134

Program Proposals

Request from the Department of Aviation and Technical Education in the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences to [correct the acronym from Police Officers Standards and Training to Peace Officer Standards and Training](#).

Request from the Department of Art and Design in the Caine College of the Arts to [offer an Associate of Arts in Art at the USU Eastern campus](#).

Request from the Department of Marketing and Strategy in the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business to [create a new Consulting Minor](#).

Request from the Center for Persons with Disabilities in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services to [change the name of the Center for Persons with Disabilities to the Institute for Disability Research, Policy and Practice](#).

Request from the Department of Languages, Philosophy and Communication Studies in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences to [create a certificate of proficiency in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages](#).

Request from the Department of Biology in the College of Sciences to [discontinue the Bachelor of Arts and Science in Biology Ecology/Biodiversity as well as the Biology: Environmental Bachelor of Arts and Science emphasis](#).
Withdrew proposal.

Request from the Department of Biology in the College of Science to [discontinue the Biology: Environmental program](#) – current listed as “not currently offered”.

Request from the Department of Biology in the College of Science to [change the emphasis program name from Ecology/Biodiversity in the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science to Ecology and Evolutionary Biology](#).

Request from the Department of Computer Science in the College of Science to [restructure the current Master of Computer Science program to a 33-credit professional, coursework-only degree](#).

b. Academic Standards Subcommittee (Renee Galliher)

Motion to approve the Academic Standards Subcommittee Report made by Sterling Bone. Seconded by Richard Cutler. Report approved.

Minutes – 8 October 2020

Two recommendations have been brought to the committee from the Registrar's Office. The first was to adjust the amount of time that students can be involved in a leave of absence (LOA) before they apply for returning to the university. Most leaves take more than one year and extra effort is needed to accommodate the students. Discussed both drawbacks and advantages. The second item is a discussion on a process for accepting non-regional school credits. Focusing on any credit but specifically if it comes in as a block from one program to another. We have seen an increase in outside entities wanting to send us their program and they are not currently accredited. The overall institutional goals are not being considered and if these are accepted they may have widespread impact on the institution. Inform the

Provost's Office regarding this. The university needs to take a broader look at the applicability of bringing in these experiences to USU.

c. General Education Subcommittee (Lee Rickords)

Minutes – No Meeting – nothing to report.

III. Other Business

Calendar Committee – Spring 2021 Calendar

As the institution looked at the Spring semester there were several competing concerns due to COVID. The start date was shifted right after the MLK holiday and then the elimination of spring break. Eliminating Spring Break allowed us to shift the start date back. One concern that has come out of these changes is the mental health of students and faculty during the long stretch of continued academic instruction. A proposal to insert a couple of days back into the spring semester has been brought forward. Right now, the University is at 70 instruction days. Adding two additional break days brings us down to 68 instruction days and USU feels that with the feedback that was receiving it won't impact any accreditation issues for this one-time change. Originally proposed a Friday in March and a Friday in April. As this was circulated there was concern on the impact of Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes. The second proposal is that the April Friday will attend Friday classes on Thursday.

Revised [EPC/Curriculum Handbook](#)

The handbook has been updated and posted to the website. Some updates are grammatical and others are suggestions/questions that we need to look at further. Because it is an EPC/Curriculum handbook we will make changes and bring it back to both committees for review and approval. Looking for anyone that might want to assist in updating the handbook. Hope to start after we go remote in November and would like to finish up in January.

Course Objectives ([email-minutes](#))

Curriculog Justification Language – Mateja Savoie Roskos
Move to December agenda.

Graduate School Updated – Richard Cutler

Discussed in the Graduate Council requirements for the GRE exam. The last time we voted on a motion to remove the GRE exam and allow departments to decide whether they wanted to require GRE and this received unanimous support. The excellence waiver will need to be looked at and reviewed. This could also impact scholarships that come through the colleges. There are still details that need to be worked out. Will vote on this as a committee possibly as soon as December. Have an overall strategy to communicate with graduate students. Utilizing email and townhalls regarding COVID related issues. Have also conducted a [graduate student survey](#). This is the third in the series. The most recent one closed last Wednesday. The Graduate Studies Office is using this to gauge the impact of COVID on the graduate students. Shared preliminary results of the Graduate Student Survey. CAPS is providing mental health help for students. The USU COVID testing will be extended to all adult dependents. Not available to test children since USU can't get past the privacy issues to test children. Trying to be open and transparent regarding the insurance issue with Grad Student dependents. Have to figure out what we can and cannot do and afford. Working on proposal for insurance. The RFP specifically asks for bids with and without dependent care as well as dental and vision. Once we receive the proposals we will sit everyone down and let them know what the university can and cannot afford.

IDEA Evaluations for 7-Week Courses – Fran Hopkin

Question came forward about when faculty could see IDEA results for the first 7-week courses. Faculty wanted to see them but AAA didn't want them to be seen until after grades. Encourage faculty to put in grades within the same timeframe after the 7-week course ends. It is best for the students and faculty if the Registrar's Office reminds the faculty to put in grades immediately after the 7-weeks. Moving forward that is what faculty will see. They will receive an email reminder of getting their grades in.

Adjourn: 4:02 pm